

From: NORMA JELLISON [normalj@monitor.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 9:37 PM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: [MLPA Comments] South Central Coast Marine Protected Area (MPA)

My name is Norma Jellison. I live in Bodega Bay, Sonoma County, where you will hold your meeting to reach a final decision on the South Central Coast MPA.

Besides living at the coast, I am a volunteer for State Parks, a Steward of the Coast and Redwoods, a docent for the Whale Watch and Seal Watch programs, among other programs that support the Sonoma Coast State Beach. I care deeply for and respect the ocean and its vast array of marine resources.

I send this to let you know that I support the "Preferred Alternative" approved by the Commission in August, 2006.

I feel it is a balanced compromise that was reached after much deliberation and input by many parties who participated in the MLPA process focused on the South Central Coast MPA.

The "Preferred Alternative" protects some of the coast's most special places - Año Nuevo, Point Sur and Piedras Blancas.

It has minimal short-term economic impacts, and provides solid long-term benefits to both fisheries and the marine environment.

I urge the Commission to hold the line and not give in to pressures to water down the recommendations of the "Preferred Alternative."

Please do not recommend any of the proposed rollbacks such as allowing spot prawn trapping in Soquel Canyon and Portuguese Ledge. That would reduce high level protection in marine conservation areas by 65%.

Furthermore, do not allow kelp harvesting in Cambria and Año Nuevo. Doing so would reduce the areas in fully-protected Marine Reserves by 15%. This is unacceptable and counter to the purpose of the MLPA initiative!

Changes such as these would upset the scientific integrity of the entire process and the public input that went into arriving at the "Preferred Alternative."

Making any changes to the "Preferred Alternative" that weaken the protections recommended for the South Central Coast jeopardize the effectiveness of the MPA network and would set a most unfortunate tone for the MLPA process going forward.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

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